

Message Text

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73

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 H-03 PCH-05

CAB-09 COME-00 EB-11 FAA-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 OMB-01

/152 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS

8/30/73 X 20448

APPROVED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS

S/PRS - MR. HARE (INFO)

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

NEA/EGY - MR. STERNER

EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE

----- 103574

R 301842Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
USINT BAGHDAD BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY SANAA BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING
AUGUST 30, 1973:

QUOTE: Q. HAVE YOU GOT ANY MORE INFORMATION ON THE REPORT
BY AN ISRAELI PAPER ON THE INTERNATIONAL AIRLINE PAYING
RANSOM TO TERRORIST ORGANIZATION?

A. NO, I WOULD SUGGEST WITH RESPECT TO THOSE REPORTS, THAT
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PROBING IT FURTHER, THAT YOU GO
BACK TO THE SOURCES OF THOSE REPORTS.

Q. DO YOU KNOW OF ANY U.S. CARRIERS PAYING RANSOM TO THE
HIJACKERS -- POTENTIAL HIJACKERS?

A. NO.

Q. YOU WERE ASKED YESTERDAY WHAT THE U.S. POLICY IS, AND
WHETHER THAT POLICY HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED TO THE U.S. AIR-
LINES. DO YOU HAVE AN ANSWER?

A. WELL, WE HAVE NO AGENCY HERE IN WASHINGTON THAT WE ARE
AWARE OF, THAT HAS, IN FACT, DISCUSSED THIS PARTICULAR

MATTER. AND AS I SAID YESTERDAY, OUR GENERAL POLICY WITH
RESPECT TO EXTORTION, BLACKMAIL, CALL IT WHAT YOU WILL --
IS VERY EXPLICIT, AND IT'S ON THE RECORD. BUT IT HAS NOT
COME UP AS A SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION.

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Q. HOW DO YOU VIEW THE MERGER BETWEEN LIBYA AND EGYPT/

A. WELL, WE HAVE NOTED THE REPORTS AND LATEST DEVELOPMENTS.

IN MATTERS OF THIS KIND, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR LONG
STANDING POSITIONS, WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS A MATTER FOR
THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, THEMSELVES, WHO ARE INVOLVED, TO
DECIDE UPON.

BUT BEYOND THAT, I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY FURTHER COMMENT.
END QUOTE. ROGERS

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED SANAA AND BAGHDAD.

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30 JUN 2005

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